

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): An apparatus for intelligent, seamless switching between a plurality of data or communications networks, comprising:

a mobile electronics device;

a network connection means, operable on said mobile electronics device, for connecting said mobile electronics device to said plurality of networks;

a network monitoring means capable of measuring at least one quality of connection parameter for said plurality of networks; and

a selection means, responsive to at least one pre-selected user preference and responsive to said at least one quality of connection parameter, for selectively connecting said mobile electronics device to one of said networks.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 where said network connection means is capable of establishing a wireless connection to at least one of said plurality of networks.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said selection means further comprises: means for detecting a network; means for processing said client preferences; and means for detecting data traffic.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said pre-selected user preference is one or more of a network identifier, an application's connection-driving parameter, a network detection mode, a mode of operation and a pre-assigned network priority.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said mode of operation is selected from an always-on mode and a connect-on-demand mode.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said connect-on-demand mode comprises only connecting to one of said networks when said means for detecting data traffic indicates an application requiring network access.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said quality of connection parameter is one or more of a ping interval, a ping-offset, and a ping timeout.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising means for providing said quality of connection parameter to an application running on said mobile electronic device.

Claim 9 (original): A method of intelligent, seamless switching between networks, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a mobile electronic device;

- providing a first and a second network connection capability operational on said mobile electronic device;

- providing a rule comprising at least one pre-selected user preference and at least one quality of connection parameter; and

- selecting one of said first and second network connection capabilities responsive to said rule.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9 wherein said first and second network connection capability comprise a wireless communications link.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said pre-selected user preference is one or more of a network identifier, an application's connection-driving parameter, a detection mode, an accesses mode, a network priority, and a mode of operation.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said mode of operation is selected from an always-on mode and a connect-on-demand mode.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said connect-on-demand mode comprises only connecting to one of said networks when an application requiring network access is detected.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein said quality of connection parameter is one or more of a ping off-set, a ping interval and a ping timeout.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing said quality of connection parameter to an application running on said mobile electronic device.

Claim 16 (original): A computer-readable medium, operable in conjunction with a mobile electronic device having a first and a second network connection capability, said computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:

- parsing a rule comprising at least one pre-selected user preference and at least one quality of connection parameter for said networks; and

- selecting one of said first and second network connection capabilities responsive to said rule.

Claim 17 (original): A computing device comprising: a computer-readable medium operable in conjunction with a mobile electronic device having a first and a second network connection capability, said computer-readable medium comprising instructions for:

- parsing a rule comprising at least one pre-selected user preference and at least one quality of connection parameter for said networks; and

- selecting one of said first and second network connection capabilities responsive to said rule.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method of maintaining an optimal network connection, comprising the steps of;

providing a mobile electronics device;

running one or more applications on said mobile electronics device, said applications requiring data to be sent to a remote server;

automatically detecting, by a network switching software module running on said mobile electronics device, two or more available wireless communications networks suitable for sending said data to said remote server;

automatically selecting one of said two or more available wireless communications networks by said network switching software module running on said mobile electronics device, responsive to at least one pre-loaded rule comprising a connection cost factor;

automatically establishing a communications connection, by said network switching software module running on said mobile electronics device, using said selected wireless communications network; and

sending said data from said application to said remote server.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein said step of automatically selecting is further responsive to at least one pre-loaded rule comprising a factor for minimizing a data transmission cost.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein said step of automatically selecting is further responsive to at least one pre-loaded rule comprising a factor for maximizing data transmission integrity.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 18 further comprising detecting, by said network switching software module running on said mobile electronics device, said data required to be sent by said one or more applications and, when no data is required to be sent, disconnecting said communications connection.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An apparatus for maintaining an optimal network connection, comprising;

a mobile electronics device;

one or more software applications operable in conjunction with said mobile electronics device, said applications requiring data to be sent to a remote server; and

a network switching software module, operable in conjunction with said mobile electronics device, said network switching software module comprising instructions for:

automatically detecting two or more available wireless communications networks suitable for sending said data to said remote server;

automatically selecting one of said two or more available wireless communications networks responsive to at least one pre-loaded rule comprising a connection cost factor;

automatically establishing a communications connection using said selected wireless communications network; and

sending said data from said application to said remote server.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said network switching software module further comprises instructions for selecting one of said two or more available wireless communications networks responsive to at least one pre-loaded rule comprising a factor for minimizing a data transmission cost.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said network switching software module further comprises instructions for selecting one of said two or more available wireless communications networks responsive to at least one pre-loaded rule comprising a factor for maximizing data transmission integrity.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said network switching software module further comprises instructions for detecting said data required to be sent by said one or more applications and, when no data is required to be sent, disconnecting said communications connection.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 18 wherein said step of sending data further comprises selectively sending said data from said application dependent on said network selected.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of switching said communications connection from a first selected network to a second selected network; and informing said remote server of said switching.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of conserving battery life.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 28 wherein said step of conserving battery life comprises said mobile electronics device operating to reduce data traffic, to optimize a transport protocol, to optimize an application protocol or to reduce duplication of work by a user through connection persistence or a combination thereof.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 27 further comprising the steps of maintaining session persistence by said remote server and said mobile electronics device using said shared network information; and maintaining application persistence by said remote server and said mobile electronics device using said shared network information.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30 wherein said step of maintaining session persistence further comprises the step of mimicking a first set of network parameters from said first selected network when using said second selected network, thereby maintaining session persistence via virtual addressing.

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of pushing data by said remote server, responsive to said informing, to said mobile electronics device either prior to or after said switching.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 27 further comprising said remote server operating to reduce data traffic, to optimize a transport protocol, to optimize an application protocol or to reduce duplication of work by a user through connection persistence or a combination thereof.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 27 further comprising the steps of providing an application programming interface; and notifying, by said network switching software module, said one or more applications running on said mobile electronics device network of one or more network connectivity parameters via said application programming interface thereby initiating said step of sending said data from said application to said remote server.